

DETAILED ACTION

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Leonard P. Diana on 5/21/2010.

The application has been amended as follows:

(a) Claim 18, at the end of claim, new line - - INSERT - - a use status determination unit for determining a use status of said USB device controller and said USB host controller; and a warning unit for giving a warning to an operator of said information processing apparatus, if said use status determination unit determines that said USB device controller of said USB host controller is in use, and said controller, which is selected from said USB device controller and USB controller in correspondence with the type of the connected apparatus determined by said switching unit and is connected with the connected apparatus, is in use, wherein said switching unit does not select said USB device controller and USB host controller in use as said USB device controller and USB host controller connected with the connected apparatus - -.

(b) Claim 21, DELETE Claim 21 as cancelled.

(c) Claim 23, at the end of claim, new line - - INSERT - - an execution status determination step for determining an execution status of said device control step and said host control step; and a warning step for giving a warning to an operator of the information processing apparatus, if it is determined in said execution status determination step that said device control step or said host control step is in execution, and the controller, which is selected in said switching step in correspondence with the type of the connected apparatus determined in said switching step and controls communication between the connected apparatus and the information processing apparatus, is such a controller that corresponds to the control step in execution, wherein in said switching step, the controller corresponding to said control step that is in execution is not selected as the controller for controlling communication between the connected apparatus and the information processing apparatus- -.

(d) Claim 26, DELETE Claim 26 as cancelled.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: Applicant's arguments filed on 2/2/2010 in conjunction with the agreed upon Examiner's Amendment of independent claims 18 and 23 better exemplifying the configuration aspect of the invention have been fully considered and are persuasive as to reasons for allowance.

The prior art fails to teach or suggest alone or in combination the limitations of a USB host and device interchanging and interconnected controller determination functionality wherein a structured warning step facilitates in executing corresponding

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processing. Prior art is further silent on motivation to combine such features and functionality and is therefore deemed allowable.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to AURANGZEB HASSAN whose telephone number is (571)272-8625. The examiner can normally be reached on 9-5.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Tariq Hafiz can be reached on 571-272-6729. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

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/Tariq Hafiz/

Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2182